

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2010

PRESENT: COUN L WOOD (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell & M Milsom

Messrs: T A Jones, J Alvey, J Hardy, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, R W Jones, D Langan, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins, D Milsom & C Austin

MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

Prior to the meeting, a 15 minute “open session” was held to allow members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council.

Mr Garth Wilson of Christchurch Place had expressed an interest in attending the meeting to ask the Town Council to support him in requesting a Rail Station for Peterlee and the surrounding area

The Chairman welcomed Mr Wilson to the meeting and asked him to address Members. Mr Wilson explained that he has lived in the South in a village of around 100 people that was served by a rail station that was well used. In 2003 he moved back to Peterlee and found rail travel, and public transport was difficult to access and parking at stations expensive. H suggested that the station at Horden should be resurrected, with its ample parking and good local bus links. He felt that if there was a national and local connection this would be well used. He even suggested that Peterlee should be served by a rail station.

The Chairman opened the session up for comment from Members on the suggestion.

One of the Members agreed that at Horden or Easington there were good links and that pressure had been put on through the DCC for a Heritage Coast line and he felt it was essential to get this station opened with one carriage halts which would not be expensive to achieve. Mr Wilson asked for the Town Council to support him in lobbying for a station. The Leader explained that this was an issues that he had spoken on recently about travelling from more local stations such as Hartlepool and assured that the Town Council were forward looking and would given this their support in pushing for a feasibility study into a rail link and station being provided locally. Assurances were given to Mr Wilson that he would be kept advised of progress.

RESOLVED that the Town Council support Mr Wilson and lobby to get a local rail station.

114. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of Councillors H Bennett MBE, (on holiday), J I Measor and R Curtis, (poorly).

115. POLICE -UPDATE

PC Rowe gave statistics for the last two months and advised that figures showed a decrease other than the shop lifting figures, although there was excellent detection in this area of crime. He reported on the success with Operation Sledgehammer. PC Rowe made a request on behalf of the Police to have the skate park remain open after the Park's normal opening hours. The Leader advised it was not only a question of considering users of the Park but also local residents and he felt it was maybe premature to consider this request as the skate park had not even been opened yet. He did comment that the Town Council would be looking to the Police for their support with this

project and stressed again the opportunity that had been offered to the Police to use the facility in the Park out of hours.

The Leader asked that the following issues be investigated once again:-

- The ice cream parking at Granville Road;
- Indiscriminate and inconsiderate parking at Basingstoke Road;
- Anti social behavior in Hatfield Place flats;
- Taxi drivers doing U turns;
- Illegal parking on footpaths;

A Local Member asked if there could be increased security in the Town Centre coming up to the Christmas period.

RESOLVED that the issues be investigated and outcomes reported to the next meeting.

116. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to an alteration being made that the fireworks were 7.00pm on 5th November 2010.
117. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 20TH SEPTEMBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
118. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 21ST SEPTEMBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor J I Measor being shown as only submitting apologies, not as being in attendance also.

In connection with the Catering Franchise it was **RESOLVED that further information be prepared on the process that was to be followed by the customer and changes to the way in which the current franchise ran.**

119. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to both Councilor M Milsom and G Cowies' apologies for absence being recorded and accepted.
120. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
121. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
122. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
123. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor Hardy's apologies being submitted and accepted.
Matters Arising
Minute Number 48 – Civic Taxi Contract
Further details were given on this provision. It was confirmed that there had been no interest from outside the area in this service and that the service provided was of a high standard and offered value for money.
RESOLVED that this contract be awarded for a further 2 years to Peterlee Executive Cars, at the prices as contained in the correspondence supplied.
124. THE REPORT OF THE INFORMATION CENTRE COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed subject to Councillor Hardy's

apologies being submitted and accepted.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 7 - 2.3 Children's Christmas Party – Sunday 5th December, 2010

RESOLVED that a cut off date be set for the sale of tickets and should the demand not be there the event be cancelled.

Details were given in relation to entertainment booked and the need for current CRB checks to be carried out. **RESOLVED that all officers be made aware of the regulations in relation to CRB checks.**

125. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 11th OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed subject to Councillor Hardy's apologies being submitted and accepted.

Matters Arising

Peterlee Leisure Gardeners

RESOLVED that it be ensured that regulations relating to health & safety were rigidly applied to any contractor that was to carry out the building works at the site. FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council consult with the representative of the Leisure Gardeners, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Leader and Town Clerk/Deputy on the terms and conditions of the loan.

126. THE REPORT OF THE MEETING TO FINALISE THE ACCOUNT FOR THE PAVILION HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed. It was confirmed that the claim letter had not yet been sent to Able Construction.

127. REPORT OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 12TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

It was noted that the next meeting was to Review the Management Board, the format of future meetings and it was intended to appoint a

new Chairman and Vice Chairman. A Review Meeting would be held every twelve months and Officers report would be issued to Members two weeks prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

128. REPORT OF THE SKATEPARK WORKING PARTY OF THE 13TH OCTOBER 2010 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that it had been necessary to close the Park early to stop unauthorized access to the skatepark and that there had been issues in clearing the Park on an evening.

129. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

130. WINDOW CLEANING TENDERS

Consideration was given to the Report of the Facilities Team following tenders being sought for the provision of this service to all Town Council buildings.

RESOLVED that the quotation received from Blue Whale Window Cleaning, Blackhall in the sum of £44.00 or £95.00, dependant on the type of clean, be accepted.

131. COUNTY DURHAM STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

Members were circulated with details received from Durham County

Council requesting comments on the County Council's view on suitability of individual sites. The SHLAA identifies land which theoretically had the potential to accommodate new housing development over the next 15 years. The key functions of the SHLAA were to:-

- Identify sites with potential for new housing development
- Assess how much housing potential the site has
- Assess when the site is likely to be developed.

In considering this matter suggestions were made that land at Lowhills Road and on the North East Industrial Estate and it was asked if any Member had particular sites they should contact the Office.

RESOLVED that further consideration be given to the consultation at the Planning Meeting on the 1st November 2010.

132. PETERLEE SUPERMARKETS

Members were circulated with a copy of an update received from Stuart Timmiss, Planning Officer, Durham County Council on the four planning applications, each proposing the development of a new supermarket in Peterlee. A summary was circulated which gave each of the applications and advised on Durham County Council's current position.

In considering this matter the Leader advised that he had attended a recent meeting at the request of the Group of Doctors who currently manage the Health Centre in the Town Centre site, Horden Group. They asked for the Town Council to be represented on a Working Group on possible future relation discussions. It was agreed that the Leader, along with Councillor Austin attend these meetings on the Town Council's behalf.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed and further developments be awaited.

133. FIRE DAMAGE – CRICKET CLUB

RESOLVED that it be agreed to re-instate the building and a meeting be called with the Insurance Company representatives to progress this matter as soon as possible with the Members of the Helford Road Working Party.

134. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader briefly re-capped on items that had been discussed previously in the meeting, Peterlee Supermarkets, the new health centre and the re instatement of the Cricket Club.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and action be taken where appropriate.